A close look at the meaning of truth

The Bible: Is it really the word of God?

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
The Master Teacher
Lesson for January 25, 1981
Bible Study Passage: Matthew 11:2-6, 25-30

Introduction

What is truth? Can we honestly believe everything we read or hear?Is the Bible really the Word of God? Does God care about what happens on this pin-head planet of ours? What can we believe when we are so full of doubts?

Modern disciples are sometimes just as doubtful as those few disciples who gathered themselves around Jesus. After all he had done and said to reveal who he was, John still asked, "Are you for real?"

We all have our moments when we behave like "doubting Thomas." But doubt does not necessarily imply faithlessness or disbelief. Truth oftentimes emerges out of difficult struggles with doubt.

The Question [Matthew 11:2-6]

John the baptizer was thrown into prison because he had reprimanded Herod for marrying his brother's wife. While in prison, John may have begun to wonder about Jesus' claim to be the Messiah. John other words, Jesus urges them to encourage John to rethink his perception of the Messiah and the kind of Kingdom he came to reveal. Jesus also recites the prophecy of Isaiah,

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The Bible and Daily Living

and his followers questioned the fact that Jesus was not fulfilling their expectations of a political redeemer. John had described Jesus as "the axe at the root of the tree" and "the consuming fire." But things were not panning out as John hoped. So, he asks, "Are you the Christ, or should we look for another"?

Jesus' reply is interesting. "... go and show John again what you've seen and heard." In which would serve to convince John that Jesus came as the Lamb of God, not a raging lion!

The Critics [Matthew 11:16-19]

Besides John's wavering understanding of the Messiah, there stood the Pharisees who condemned Jesus for mingling with "sinners." The Pharisees had a bad case of the blahs, that is, they were extremely negative in their attitude towards Jesus and John. They were unwilling to mourn or to celebrate. They were like obnoxious children, refusing to play any game except the game they could play the best.

Jesus told this parable of the children to help us see that to be negative is to be like Satan. A negative attitude is a number one killer in the human social drama. It kills good ideas, churches, businesses, communities, and people.

The Judgment [Matthew 11:20-24]

The "Lamb of God" was not above making critical judgments when the situation called for it. Those who openly reject Christ and those who represent him are, therefore, openly rejecting God.

Jesus names several cities in his judgment. This raises the issue of corporate guilt. Surely there were some who lived righteously and loved God. Yes! But these cities seemed to breed sin and hostility towards the positive things of God. These cities had enjoyed the privilege of the preaching of John the Baptist and the healing ministry of Jesus, but they chose to fall back into their accustomed negative stance. All they had seen and heard was like a shot in the arm that didn't take!

It is easy to become forgetful of our ultimate dependence upon God and to lose sight of Him who supplies all our needs. How will we stand in the day of reckoning?

The Caring Christ [Matthew 11:25-30]

Jesus practiced what he preached! He gave thanks for the people who gladly heard and followed him. He was grateful to see such "babes" accept the Gospel. He extends an open-ended invitation for "... all who labor and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." The rest Jesus offers is not a good night's sleep on a posture-pedic mattress! His rest is that which frees us to live in peace in a world that spreads fear and unrest.

In this not so peaceful environment we may experience a serenity of mind and heart as we go about bearing the yoke of Christ in love.

Gary Campbell completes recruit training

Coast Guard Seaman Apprentice Gary D. Campbell, son of Kermit H. and Rosa G. Campbell of Route 1, Appomattox, Va., has completed recruit training at the Coast Guard Training Center, Cape May, N. J.

During the ten-week training cycle, trainees studied general military subjects designed to prepare them for further academic and on-the-job training leading toward their qualification in one of the Coast Guard's 26 basic occupational fields.

Included in their studies were first aid, seamanship, Coast Guard history and regulations, close order drill and damage control.

A 1980 graduate of Appomattox County High School, he joined the Coast Guard in August 1980.

Transco increases dividends

Directors of Transco Companies Inc. increased the quarterly dividend on its common stock to $0.40 per share, payable February 20, 1981, to stockholders of record February 5, 1981. The company previously paid $0.36. The new annual $1.60 rate represents an increase of 15 percent over dividends paid in 1980.

President W. J. Bowen said, "The dividend increase is in line with Transco's previously stated policy of paying out a reasonable portion of its cash flow and keeping its shareholders abreast of inflation."

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois (WLYP)

Foreigners purchasing U.S. farmland must report

By TOM CONRAD

Foreign Purchases Of U.S. Farmland Need To Be Reported - The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) of 1978 was enacted to establish a nationwide system to monitor foreign ownership and purchases of U. S. farmland.

Under the Act, all foreigners or representatives thereof who purchase U.S. farmland are required to report the acquisition to the ASCS office within 90 days of the acquisition day. Failure to report could result in a fine of up to 25 per cent of the property's fair market value.

The report is to be filed on a form ASCS-153. The form can representative. After the report has been completed and has been completed and reviewed, it will then be transmitted to Washington for filing purposes. Form ASCS-153 can be obtained at the ASCS office, Clerk's Office, various attorney's, Commissioner of Revenue and realtors.

It is the responsibility of the investor or representative to comply with the Foreign Investment Act; however, anyone having knowledge of a foreign purchase of U.S. farmland is asked to notify the ASCS office so that appropriate action may be taken.

Emergency Feed Program - Approved applicants under the Emergency Feed Program are reminded that they should turn in receipts for purchased feed. We are making reinbursements on a weekly basis. All receipts must be dated, signed by both the seller and buyer, contain the kind and quantity of feed purchased.

1981 Wheat and Feed Grain Program - Regulations under the 1981 wheat and feed grain program have been changed to indicate that producers will not be required to remain within their Normal Crop Acreage (NCA) to be eligible for price support loans, target price protection or disaster assistance. There will also be no cross compliance or offsetting compliance. In regard to these changes, any increase in acreage in 1981 will not be used in determining normal crop acreage in future years.

Additional information can be obtained at the ASCS office.

ASCS TODAY
By Tom Conrad

Here's the difference between most interest/checking plans and Central Fidelity's.

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Mrs. Donald R. Scruggs

Miss Goff is wed to Donald R. Scruggs

The marriage of Cynthia Ann Goff to Donald R. Scruggs took place Sunday, December 21, 1980 at 4:00 p.m. at Liberty Baptist Church with the Rev. Michael Boggs officiating a double ring ceremony.

A program of nuptial music was presented by Mrs. J. Franklin Vaughan, organist.

The bride wore a full length gown of white satin with a bodice of French lace. Her three-quarter length mantilla was of French lace and she carried a nosegay of white roses, stepanotis and baby's breath.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Keith Goff of Tampa, Florida.

The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Abner D. Scruggs of Appomattox.

Miss Kathy Lewis of Appomattox was maid of honor and Mr. Scruggs was best man for his son.

After the wedding a reception was given in the Fellowship Hall.

The couple will live in Little Creek, Virginia where the bridegroom is stationed with the United States Navy serving in the Medical Corp.

Letter

Feeding Birds

To the Editor:

With inflation obvious at the meat counter I purchased an untrimmed beef loin hoping to save some money. When it was sliced there was a large amount of fat and I disappointedly muttered, "For this I paid $4.00 a pound!" Knowing that wild birds are fond of suet, I filled my bird feeders with the trimmings and almost immediately appeared Downy woodpeckers, red-headed woodpeckers, brown creepers, red-breasted nuthatches, titmice, chicadees and cardinals. What a joy watching these beautiful birds surrounding the feeders.

Never had I received such rewards for what seemingly was a mistake. There was a lesson learned here beyond just "Remember to feed the birds".

Sincerely,
Frances M. Hopkinson

St. Luke

The weather was very cold and a smfall group of members and friends of the St. Luke Baptist Church attended the 3rd Sunday services at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Rev. McLaughlin was in charge, and taught the adult class in church school. We then went into the regular preaching services.

The Adult Choir and the 1st. Luke Gospel Chorus gave inspiring music. The minister used as his text, Matthew the 5th chapter since this was installation service for all officers of the church his subject was, "Your Great Responsibility." This he handled very interestingly. He made all of us see that our great duty in life is first to God. The offering was good.

Homecomers for the day were Mr.Alfred Canada and Weslery Canada from Richmond, Va. The former and his family were up to visit Mrs. Alfred Canada's mother and attend the funeral of her grandfather. Mr. Clarence Wade, who was eulogized Sat. at the Evergreen Church. Rev. J. C. Cabell was the minister and pastor.

The Canada boys visited their parents Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Canada.

Mr. and Mrs. James Tweedy have returned from attending the funeral of a cousin in Baltimore, Md. Mrs. Cozette Gillmore. While there they visited her sister and brother-in-law Rev and Mrs. A. D. Nance. They have made a recovery from their illness.

The Senior Citizens met in the home of Mrs. Matthew Hurtt recently. This was enjoyed as they quilted. Mrs. Hurtt served a delicious lunch. Mrs. Louise Canada, their leader complimented them for the fine way they showed their interest.

Mrs. Issie Bell Jones has been saddened by the passing of a grandson who was laid to rest at the Promise Land Church on Friday.

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Times-Virginian Social News

At Appomattox Club

Mrs. Howe to speak

Mrs. Kenneth C. Howe of Lynchburg will be the guest speaker Monday, January 26, at 7:30 p.m. for the Appomattox Garden Club. Mrs. Howe creates corn shuck flowers and designs arrangements utilizing the husk flowers. Some of her materials may be for sale at the close of the meeting.

In Concord

Garden Club meets

The Concord Garden Club had its annual Christmas Party including cover dish dinner and an exchange of gifts.

Mrs. John Wooldridge in Davidson Subdivision was hostess for the party in her home.

Her place was beautifully decorated, inside and out, with quite a variety of interest in the Christmas season.

One very special feature was lovely red apples (real) having been placed on a large evergreen tree, that was easily viewed from the living room, as it glowed in a spotlight.

It always adds to the fun to have the men, guest of the club for the evening judge the wrappings on the packages. They judged for the three Most Like Christmas. The results: 1st Mrs. Charles F. Jones, 2nd Mrs. James F. MacKenzie and 3rd Mrs. John Wooldridge.

There is not to be a January meeting and the next meeting is to be Feb. 9 at 11:00 a.m. in the home of Mrs. C. "Ray" Carson with Mrs. M. M. Roberts as co-hostess. Mr. Allen Hunter of our Virginia Extension Service, out of Rusburg is to be the guest speaker using "Pruning" as his subject.

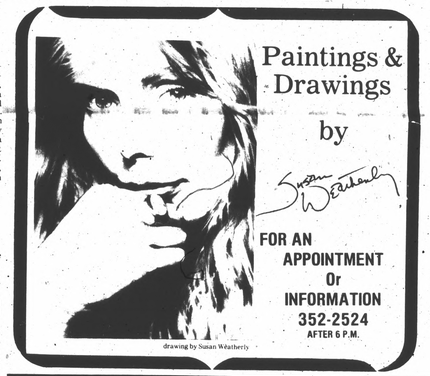
Ferguson child

Birth Announced

Mr. and Mrs. Keith Ferguson of Lexington, N. C. are the parents of their first child, a son, born January 13, 1981 at Community General Hospital in Thomasville, N. C.

John Kevin, who weighed 7 lbs and 7 ozs. at birth is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. George C. Franklin and Mr. and Mrs. John T. Ferguson, all of Appomattox.

His great grandparents are Mrs. Robert J. Paulette, Mr. D. Julian Franklin, and Mrs. John R. Ferguson all of Appomattox. His mother is the former Paula Franklin.



Paintings & Drawings by

FOR AN APPOINTMENT Or INFORMATION 352-2524 AFTER 6 P.M.

drawing by Susan Weatherly

4 named to Dean's List

Four local students have been named to the Dean's list at James Madison University for the fall semester of the 1980-81 academic year has been announced.

To qualify for the honor of being placed on the Dean's List, a student must have a grade point average of at least 3.25 on a 4.0 scale and carry a course load of at least 14 hours.

Named to the Dean's list from this area were: Teresa C. Cyrus, Mitchell L. Eggleston, Laura M. Fraley, Pamela E. Guill.

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What a ...
we sh...

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